

Make Your Vacation Last the Whole Year Thru—Rector Family Tells How

By ELEANOR GILBERT

The Robert Rector family, 437 Via la Selva, have found a way to make their vacation pleasure last all year long. On their trips to Maine, Mexico, Florida and points east and west, they study the areas and their special crafts. Bringing home the specialties of the places visited, they use the techniques used to produce their own handicrafts.

Margaret Rector, who has written professionally for American Home and House Beautiful, dreams up the ideas usually. Robert, who's a mathematician for Rame-Woodbridge, works out the technical details. Then the whole family including the children, Cleone, 12; Robin, 10, and Bruce, 6, works on the current project to completion. The end result becomes a beautiful addition to their home.

Their latest project is a wall hanging itself. The children took over and cut the many shapes of felt with the aid of a ruler, compass and design book. Then the fun began.

With the nine-foot hanging stretched out on the floor, the family worked on the intricate designs, working in the shells and souvenirs acquired from the various trips. Each bit has its special memory and association. One of the most unusual and meaningful wall decorations has resulted.

The Rectors were both born in California, Margaret in Azusa, and Robert in San Jose.

They met at Stanford, when both were doing graduate work, she in philosophy and English, and Robert getting his master's degree in mathematics. After the war, Robert, a commander in the Naval Reserve, took a position as a teacher of mathematics at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, where they lived for 19 years before returning to Southern California.

Another unique way of preserving their vacation moments is in an unusual mobile which is kept mobile by careful planning and the use of heat waves from a strategically placed flood light.

Beginning at the top with a lobster trap board they found on the banks of the St. Lawrence River, near the Gaspé Peninsula, they suspended on a cord and dowlings a number of tokens from the many vacation spots which they've visited. Included are sand dollars from Winterhaven, Me., where Robert was also stationed during the war, fan coral from St. Augustine, Fla.; conch shells

from the South Atlantic and Caribbean waters, petrified wood from New Mexico, small carved stone pieces from Mexico, and star fish from Redondo. There is driftwood from Laguna and Portuguese Bend and manzanita from the Mojave desert.

"The children worked right through to the end," said Margaret. "They were very pleased with it and it has excited considerable comment from visitors." The mobile was a challenging engineering feat. The Rectors had had no previous experience, but they knew that each hole they made had to be exactly right, a second hole would split the wood or the piece involved.

In one dowling they added four separate nails before they found the one that would give the exact balance, after removing 1 1/2 inches of one dowling. A coat of paint on one dowling threw the balance off on the other side. A piece of bubble gum added to the petrified wood remedied this. When the other side tilted, they filled

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one shell with salt. Within four days, the salt had absorbed so much moisture, they had to empty out half of it to secure the right balance again. "It works just fine now," said Bruce, "if we don't have too many dry days."

Included among the family projects are puppeteering, Christmas card making, remodeling, and refinishing and building furniture. Decorations for their new home are the big thing right now. "We're just craft-conscious," is the way Margaret sums it up. The children paint and make paper mache masks. Robert made their FM cabinet and hooked up all the speakers.

Margaret says they have an "informal house," so they are able to combine Danish lampshades and furniture, Japanese Shoji doors and art, a Tennessee Mountain "corn shucking" chair, designed by Tom Scott, and contemporary furniture as exemplified by the natural leather hide covered campaign chair designed by Robert John of New York City.

"We think that you can use and combine any art form from any country as long as it is of good basic design." Judging from the comments made of the Rector's family projects, it is apparent why their "art forms" combined so successfully in their home with those of the famous designers represented. Everyone agrees these are year-long vacations well-spent.

Dr. Ruja Will Talk Monday

Tomorrow evening at 7:30, in the teachers' cafeteria at Torrance High School, Dr. David Ruja, chief psychologist, Los Angeles State Mental Hygiene Clinic will give the second in a series of lectures on "The Cause of Frustrations." Dr. Ruja is in Torrance under the auspices of the Torrance Cooperative Nursery School.

In his first lecture, in a humorous way he helped everyone to know himself a little better and presented much food for thought, said Mrs. Ann McLean, publicity chairman for the nursery school.

The public is invited to hear the lecture. Mrs. Henry R. Morgan, 18804 Yukon is membership chairman for the nursery school.

The third and last lecture of the series will be presented on Jan. 28.

Neighbors Plan Bazaar

The regular meeting of the Torrance Royal Neighbors was called to order by Oracle Stella Norris on Tuesday, Nov. 20.

Final plans were made for the annual bazaar which will be held at the Woman's Club next Tuesday, Nov. 27. The various committees will be on hand at 10 a.m. and members are asked to bring in articles for the bazaar before noon.

Cakes, pies, cookies, nut bread and other items will be on display on the food counter, and sale will continue during the afternoon.

The usual monthly card party will be held the same night, Nov. 27, at 8 p.m. with Neighbor Young as chairman.

The committee has arranged lovely prizes for the winners of the various games.

The annual Christmas dinner was discussed and date set for Dec. 18.

During the social hour cakes made by the members were judged by the committee, and prizes awarded to Neighbors Young, Disario and Norris. The cakes were served as refreshments.

Noted Charm Consultant Speaks Here

Ladies of the Elks will have the privilege of hearing Janice W. Murdock speak on "Charm" at their meeting Tuesday evening, Nov. 27. Miss Murdock has appeared before numerous women's organizations throughout Southern California. Her background includes specialized training in grooming, modeling and entertaining.

The meeting will be held at the Alan Richards hall, 1951 W. Carson, beginning at 8 p.m.

The public is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served at the close of the meeting.

GREET DAUGHTER

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Anderson, 2420 W. 38th Pl., Torrance, are announcing the birth of their third child, a daughter, born Sunday, Nov. 18. The young lady, who weighed 6 lbs. 2 ozs., has been named Stephanie Gail. She has two brothers, Pat and Arney.

HOLIDAY DINNER

Enjoying Thanksgiving dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Schwab, 1508 Acacia, were Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Betts; Mr. and Mrs. Grover C. Van Deventer and Miss Mickey Van Deventer and Neil Schwab.

DISTRICT REBEKAH INITIATION HERE

Rebekahs of District 66 will hold a district initiation in Torrance at the Masonic Temple next Wednesday evening, Nov. 27, at 8 p.m. Officers for the initiation will be made up of officers of the eight lodges of the district.

Olea Brown of the Torrance Rebekahs is in charge of refreshments for the event.

Y WIVES TOY PARTY THURSDAY

Torrance Y Wives will stage a toy party and luncheon on Thursday, Nov. 29 at 1 p.m. at the Y, 2320 Carson St. Since Christmas is less than a month away, the public is invited to attend and order their toys.

The Y Wives are still holding their charm course on Tuesday morning with bridge and exercises in the afternoon.

AQUARIANISTS MEET TUESDAY

Four speakers will be featured at the regular meeting of the Harbor Aquarian Society, on Tuesday, Nov. 27, at 7:45 p.m. in the auditorium of the Gardena Community Center, 1651 Market St.

Wessy Cocks, program chairman, said the speakers would be Clyde Hutchison, Forrest Copeland, Al Nicholson and Bob Martin, each of whom is a manufacturer of aquarium supplies or accessories.

The "fish of the month" for the monthly club show will be catfish, the "housekeepers" of the aquariums. The door prize will be a 5-gallon tank and hood. Refreshments will be served and the public is cordially invited, according to Charles Jones, president of the organization.

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